

# THE MCGILL DAILY

VOLUME 84 • NUMBER 10

Deflowered since 1911

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1994

## Liberals strike parting blow to Welfare

*Activists, recipients angered by changes to provincial laws*

BY LAILA MALIK AND  
MELANIE NEWTON

On October 1 this year, many welfare recipients in Québec are likely to be very surprised by a difference in the amount written on their monthly welfare checks. According to local welfare rights groups, most people will not be happy.

The difference stems from changes made to provincial welfare legislation two years ago, but are just now coming into effect for all recipients. Previously, the changes only affected people who became recipients after October, 1993.

Under the old system, there were more than 300 different categories for determining how much money people received. As a result of amendments made in January 1993 to the law governing social services, most of those categories will be eliminated, and equalized across the board.

According to Dominique McCaughey, community coordinator at a local welfare-rights group called Project Genesis, the idea behind the new law was to spread the money around more evenly.

"Part of [the provincial government's] thinking was that there was a big spread between what people were receiving, and they wanted to lower the [number of] categories," she said.

### Most will suffer under the changes

Few people, however, will actually benefit from the change. Most of those affected will be losing from \$15 to \$30 a month. While this may not seem like much, for many recipients it is yet another in a series of cutbacks implemented over the past years.

"Technically it's not going to help anybody," said McCaughey.

Montréal welfare-rights activists have said that the problem is not only that people will see their checks cut, but that most welfare recipients

have not been informed that this is happening.

According to McCaughey, the provincial welfare department is supposed to notify people 30 days in advance of changes. So far, no one has received any information from the provincial government.

"We've had people calling us up very worried," said McCaughey. "They... haven't been told how much [they will receive] or what the consequences are."

Roland Clattenburg, a volunteer welfare-rights activist at the anti-poverty group St. Columbo House, said that he suspects political maneuvering was involved in the government's failure to provide adequate notification.

"Every time there's a change, they tell everybody who's on welfare. But since [the Liberals] weren't going to be in power, they didn't issue any notice. So as far as people are aware, it's the new government that's doing this. But it's been there for two years," said Clattenburg.

### Welfare recipients paying for deficit

The government has cited the deficit as another one of the reasons for the upcoming welfare reforms. Project Genesis, however, has argued that welfare recipients are paying for the deficit while large businesses and corporations are simultaneously benefiting from tax deductions.

Merle Reister, categorized as a recipient available for work, has been informed of cutbacks in her checks three times over the past year.

"I don't see why the government is coming to take our money," she said. "I want to see a job before they take anything off my welfare check."

Ironically, the welfare reforms coincide with a number of freezes in employment and back to school programs, making the situation all the more difficult for recipients. For some, such as Reister, this entails a return to eating cat food.

### Welfare levels already inadequate

At present, most categories of welfare receipt do not correspond to the cost of living index, and do not change with the rise in the cost of living.

Another man, who did not wish to be identified, says that as it is, no one can live on the amount of money they receive from welfare. He suggested that if the government seriously wanted to encourage welfare recipients to look for employ-

ment, they would provide them with bus passes to get to job interviews.

The man has no phone and is among the thousands who still have no idea exactly how the new regulations will affect them.

No one knows for sure exactly how many people are going to be affected by the new regulations. According to Clattenburg, at least 93,000 Québeckers will see their checks cut. McCaughey estimates that around 68,000 households will be affected.

Welfare rights groups around the city are organizing to protest the changes. McCaughey thinks it is important for students to get involved, particularly since increasingly higher numbers of students are going on welfare.

"It will impact [on] a certain part of [the student] community. And a lot of people will be in the position in their lives when they will have to be on welfare," said McCaughey.

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DAILY GRAPHIC BY MAX FRANCISCO

## Disorder in the family

*Dealing with relatives' mental illness*

BY IDELLA STURINO

"You know a little bit about me, and I... would like to find out a little bit about who you are..." said health care ethicist Patricia Backlar Monday night near the opening of her lecture at Concordia University. The lecture was co-sponsored by the Québec Alliance for the Mentally Ill (AMI) and the Department of Psychology of Concordia University.

AMI-Québec is a grass-roots organization for people with severe mental disorders, their family and their friends. It offers support, services, and funds research. Backlar, a prominent American scholar, spoke on the subject of living with mental illness, particularly the role family members play as care-givers and how they, in turn, are affected.

It was not surprising, then, that when Backlar asked the audience "how many relatives or friends of someone with an [mental] illness are here?", an overwhelming majority raised their hands.

Indeed, living with someone who is mentally ill is usually an incredibly demanding and complex experience — and one that is often overlooked.

Patricia Backlar, a senior scholar and health ethicist at the universities of Oregon and Portland, has spent much of her career dealing with mental health issues. Her recent book, *The Family Face of Schizophrenia* (G.P. Putman Sons, 1994), deals quite intimately with the experiences of living with someone who suffers from a mental illness.

Backlar pointed out that so much of this experience relates to caregiving, that family members are referred to as "informal care-givers." These informal care-givers, Backlar stated, are inter-dependent on both formal care-givers (i.e. psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, etc.), and people with mental illness themselves, thus, it is important that their role, needs, and interests be addressed.

One of the issues that arose at the lecture was that of blame. Backlar suggested that the suspicion that parents of schizophrenic children are to blame for their child's illness was and, can still be, a strong cause for social stigma and internalized guilt.

Backlar highlighted this point by reading an excerpt from an editorial printed in the *Wall Street Journal* in which the mother of a

schizophrenic son recounted feeling responsible, or, as one outdated term would have labeled her, schizophrenic: a term once used to describe people who drive others crazy.

Backlar closed her address by pointing to problems with coordinating and providing adequate medical, social, and rehabilitative care for people with mental illness, noting that it is still families who bear most of the brunt of responsibility.

"I do not doubt that the lion's share of care-giving will continue to fall upon the shoulders of the family. My hope is that this resource will not be plundered by the community, but integrated into formal care-giving in a way that proves (beneficial) for the professional service provider and for the families themselves," Backlar stated.



Dr. Patricia Backlar talks to audience about how families deal with mentally troubled relatives.

DAILY PHOTO BY MIKE KOTLER



## International Conference goes beyond science

# Women's health affected by status in society

BY LINDSAY BECK

The link between women's health and our status in society is the major lesson learned at an international meeting of obstetricians and gynecologists this week. Some 13,000 specialists in women's health from around the world are convening in Montreal to attend the fourteenth meeting of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO).

FIGO launched the conference with the release of a World Report on Women's Health. Compiled by an international team of twenty health experts, the report outlines a number of critical health issues facing women around the world. Significantly, the report addresses not only the biological factors affecting women's health, but also the contributing societal elements, such as differential access to health facilities, unequal education, and inadequate attention to reproductive and maternal issues.

"We must look at the health of women as a whole, not just biology, but social factors underlying. Medical solutions are not enough," said Egyptian doctor Mahmoud Fathalla at a press conference held Monday.

Indeed, it was clear from the re-



port were on this subject. On September 27, the *Globe and Mail* reported that "A discussion of female circumcision is likely to dominate the conference," even though the issue only comprises a small part of the World Report on Women's Health, and is not scheduled among the 'highlights' of the conference.

This concentration came at the expense of other issues affecting women which FIGO was trying to highlight in its report. These issues include insufficient access to

reproductive technologies, gender-based violence and women's reproductive health, women and HIV, and the greater effect of STDs on women.

The issues of female powerlessness are of course not specific to the "Third" World. As the report noted, "the percentage of women with AIDS in the USA has grown from approximately 3 percent in 1981 to 12 percent in 1991." Female mortality rates for black women in the United States are comparable to those in many developing countries. Although the problem of women's unequal access to health care is especially important in the US, Doctor Robert Reid of Queen's University noted that socialized

reproductive technologies, gender-based violence and women's reproductive health, women and HIV, and the greater effect of STDs on women. The issues of female powerlessness are of course not specific to the "Third" World. As the report noted, "the percentage of women with AIDS in the USA has grown from approximately 3 percent in 1981 to 12 percent in 1991." Female mortality rates for black women in the United States are comparable to those in many developing countries. Although the problem of women's unequal access to health care is especially important in the US, Doctor Robert Reid of Queen's University noted that socialized

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medicine in Canada has not eradicated this problem either.

The report also placed an emphasis on fertility and family planning. In particular, the continuing preference for boys in some societies was noted. Fathalla said, "Societies do not consider that the lives of women are worth saving."

However, some strides have been made. Only four countries currently deny access to family planning information, while 144 countries provide it. Abortion was recently recognized as a health hazard.

FIGO is dedicated to promoting the development of scientific research in women's health, raising teaching standards and providing a

forum for the exchange of information and ideas among health professionals around the world. Recently FIGO created study groups on AIDS and other STDs, the role of endoscopy in gynecological surgery, and the status of women physicians.

Doctor John Sciarra asked, "What can FIGO do to address the powerlessness of women?" While it may be a long time before this question can be answered, the fact that the question was asked is a step in the right direction.

The fourteenth meeting of the FIGO World Congress will be continuing through September 30 at the Palais de Congress.

### Rebellion in town of Qazvin shakes Iran

More than a month after the fact, a true account of the events of the August 3rd and 4th rebellion in Qazvin, Iran is becoming available from eyewitnesses and participants in the rebellion.

Despite the government's claim that the massive demonstrations were over whether or not Qazvin should be a province, the true cause appears to have been mass anger over poverty, high inflation, and unemployment.

Government privatizations, as well as the corrupt policies of Iranian big business, have hit the working class and the poor hardest in the major industrial cities such as Qazvin, Tehran, Tabriz and Esfahan.

According to eyewitness accounts, the rebellion in Qazvin was massive. The primary target was government-controlled shops and the banks. The government mobilized thousands of troops from around the country to quell the rebellion.

A number of protests against government-imposed, IMF-sponsored programs have taken place in the last year. However the size of the Qazvin rebellion and the brutal government repression which followed have made some of the highest officials in the Iranian army question the government policies. Some of the highest leaders of the Iranian army signed a statement asking the government not to put the army in a confrontation against the people.

— Workers World Service



### Union repression intensifies in Guatemala

Guatemalan labour union leaders have gone to the United Nations Human Rights Organization and the U.S. Congress in Washington D.C. to denounce repression by the Guatemalan armed forces.

Nery Barrios, a representative of the Union and Popular Action Unit, claims that since the March 29th Global Human Rights Agreement, "We have had 20 union leaders killed, which means that the repression against union organizations has intensified."

On August 24th, the Guatemalan armed forces massacred 70 people, including children, at the La Exacta farm on the San Juan El Horizonte plantation in Quetzaltenango. On September 14th, the body of Juan Garcia Gomez, a member of Barrios' union, was found with two bullet wounds to the head. According to Barrios, the body bore signs of having been tortured.

— New York Transfer News Collective

### Haitian Military U.S. trained

Many Haitian officers have trained at the infamous "School of the Americas" at Fort Benning or in other U.S.-led programs. The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has also been involved with the Haitian military. Many high-ranking officers, including Lt. General Raoul Cedras (called "one of their 'best assets'" in the New York Times) have been on its payroll. The CIA also created the secret police unit, SIN (Service d'Intelligence National) in 1986, and refused to dismantle it when the Aristide administration requested.

— The Nation

## Getting ready for Copenhagen

### Conference on north-south poverty comes to Montréal

BY AUSA APOSTLE

In 1995 the UN will be holding a World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen. In preparation for the UN event, social activists from all over the world are meeting in Montréal this weekend to discuss "how to fight social and economic exclusion, unemployment and the spread of poverty in the North and South." Students and everyone else interested in the program are invited to attend and help participate in the ambitious agenda.

Questions to be tackled in workshops include "is the concept of poverty absolute or relative? In a society that no longer claims to provide jobs for all, what are the modes of social integration other than work? How and why are women the first to be affected?" Workshop speakers include World Bank representatives, international economists, guests from the Philippines, Mozambique, Palestine, Ethiopia, South Africa, Solidarité Populaire Québec, and even a representative of Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lloyd Axworthy. On Saturday evening Herman Vilatro Barrios from the Commission of Indigenous and Peasant Organizations of Chiapas

will speak with Pedro Dalcero from Brazil and Palestinian Haider Abdel Shafi about "Third World Social Movements: Looking for an alternative."

Rosalind Boyd, a senior research fellow at the Centre for Developing Area Studies thinks the conference is a "fantastic" idea. "[Its agenda] strikes at the heart of how we should be viewing this global moment."

As a member of a post-Vietnam generation, Boyd claims that she is "conscious of what's happened to Vietnam." "[Vietnam has been] buried as a country in a way that napalm couldn't," she stated. Boyd asserts that Vietnam was buried by financial institutions and economic policies that endorse the myth of "short-term pain for long-term gain".

"The current mood of neo-liberalism and economic reforms are all wrong. Popular solidarity is the only form of resistance to the dominant discourse leading us down the wrong path," Boyd continued. She hopes the conference will be successful with an agenda of increased participation, solidarity and dialogue between NGOs and popular forces in third-world countries and players in the north. Boyd says we ought to remember that "the

wealth we have in this part of the world is also infused with poverty," and hence discussion between a wide variety of participants might be fruitful.

Organizers also see this weekend as a chance to bring together those groups and individuals interested in the issues who would otherwise not be able to participate in Copenhagen. Michel Lambert, an organizer with the Centre d'information et de documentation sur le Mozambique et l'Afrique Australe says "the event is special because it is the only place where people of Montréal, Québec, Canada will have their word." While the rest of Canada has its own consultation process, he says, the one in Montréal aims to be less formal and more accessible. With over fifty invited guests and speakers from all over the world, participants will include everyone from literacy groups to international corporations.

The conference is to be held at UQAM (Hubert-Aquin Building) beginning at 17h September 30 until the afternoon of October 2. There is a special price of 10\$ for students. Tickets can be bought at the door. For info. call Stephan Corriveau, C-IDMAA, at 982-6606.



*Observers claim the government simply removed the names of people who didn't support the party from voter lists*

## Fraud suspected in Mexican elections

BY HANS ROLLMAN

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — The democratic process, considered by most Canadians to be the only acceptable form of governmental change, has given Mexico's Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which has ruled for 65 continuous years, yet another victory. Most of the international media and heads of state seem to have accepted the PRI victory. Some international witnesses to the Aug. 21 elections, however, returned home convinced not of the integrity of the Mexican electoral process, but of what might have been a massive case of electoral fraud.

The most significant element of fraud is a traditional Mexican election trick: the government simply removes the names of those who do not support the party from voter lists, says Abdul Alkalimat, an African-American studies professor from Boston's North East University.

"The kind of evidence for [the fraud] that [non-governmental parties] are generating is increasingly convincing," Alkalimat said.

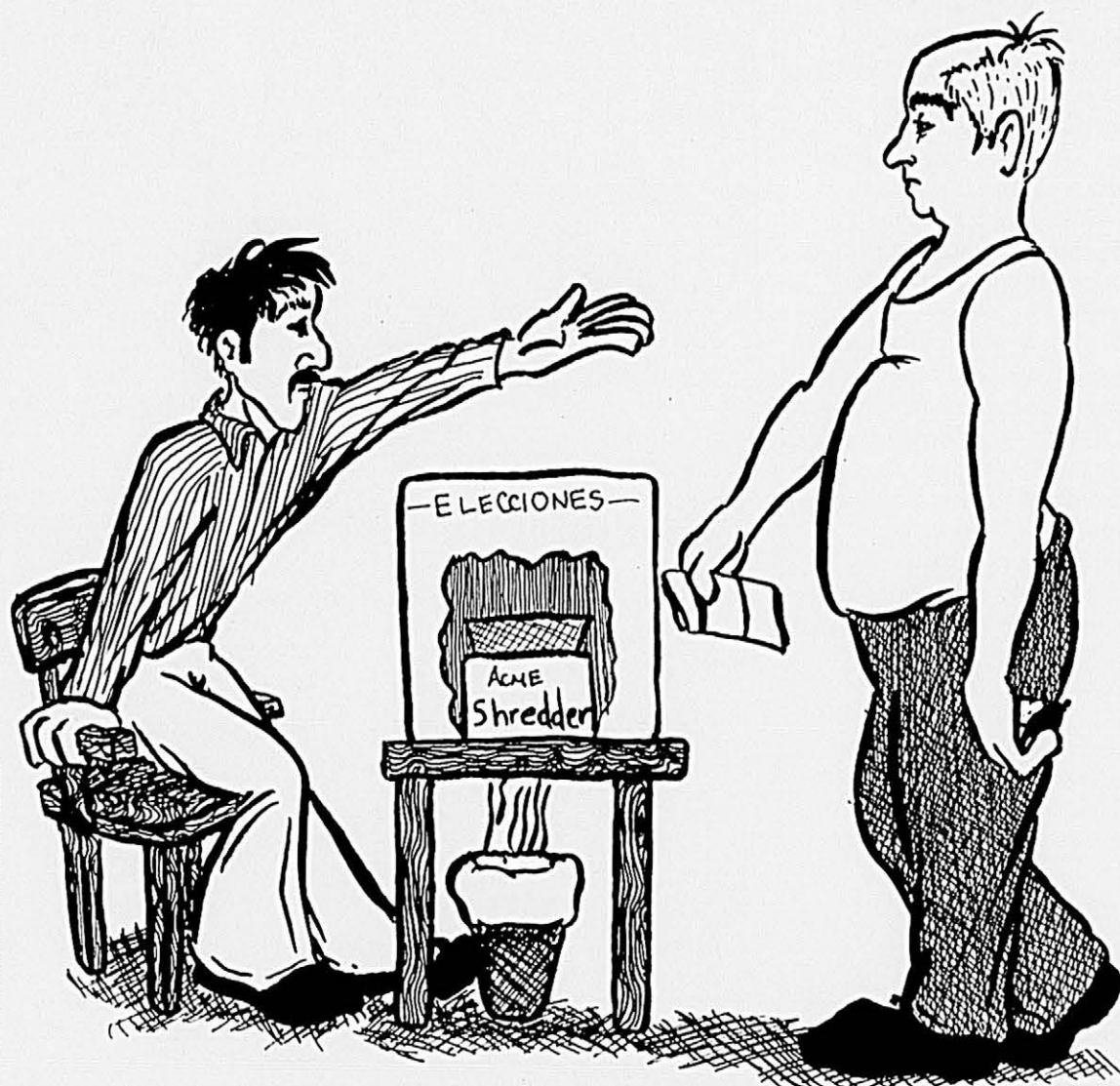
"In the long run, the government is losing any sort of legitimacy it had. Electoral change is highly unlikely," agreed Mike Saloveshand, a North Illinois professor and observer of the fiercely-fought gubernatorial campaign in the Mexican state of Chiapas during the elections.

Salovesh believes that one of the primary methods of ensuring the outcome was precisely the 'razoring' of voters lists, or the removal of registered voters from the lists.

"Generally speaking, the people who found themselves removed from the lists were people who were not known to be strong supporters of the official party," Salovesh said.

### Missing ballots

THE FEDERAL ELECTION Commission was to have made provisions for razored ballots by establishing special polling stations for those who were not on the list. But Salovesh said such stations had no more than 300 ballots, and Mexican law states that members of the Armed Forces and election officials have priority over civilian voters at these stations. In effect, civilian voters found it almost impossible to use this provision.



DAILY GRAPHIC BY MAX FRANCISCO

**"If you were to ask me who's going to be the next president, it's Ernesto Zedillo, the candidate for PRI. But if you were to ask me who got the most votes in the voting places, I haven't the foggiest idea. And no one else does either."**

**— Antonio Ocaranza of the Mexican Embassy's Press Department**

"At one special election place, I saw government-owned vehicles bringing people to the special polling place," Salovesh said. "They used their privilege of voting while away from home to vote at the special election place, which used up more ballots. These people were from some place within just a 20-minute drive from their normal polling station. All around the country, between 9 and 10 a.m., the special polling places ran out of ballots."

"When the Federal Election Commission refused to issue any more ballots to these polls, the voters who had been removed from the lists were then sent from one special voting station to another throughout the day. Of course, none of the stations had any more ballots. This election trick is so familiar to Mexicans that they call it Ratonloco, or the 'crazy mouse,'" he noted.

The result was that "all over the country, there were people waiting in line all day who were not allowed

to vote at all," Salovesh said. When polls closed, those people in line in the state capital, Tuxtla Gutierrez, began to protest, Salovesh added. The army was then called in to fire on the voters with tear gas, which the government justified the following day by saying it had to deal with a 'large riot.'

"There just wasn't that much damage visible the next morning," Salovesh said. "This just didn't look like any huge riot. I heard the firing of tear gas and I smelled some of that from a few blocks away." Salovesh also questioned the legitimacy of some of the ballots that were cast. In one polling station, he observed an election judge wearing a PRI campaign hat for several hours into the election — which is against Mexican electoral law.

### Ballots no secret

ACCORDING TO SALOVESH, in another polling station, there was not even a secret ballot. "There was a man standing next to the ballot box, and voters were

handing him their ballots, either unfolded or, if they were folded, he unfolded them," Salovesh commented. "Obviously he read them — every ballot! Nobody would tell me who he was."

"Here was a guy reading every ballot. I saw him open a ballot box and reach into it. He reached in and was actually removing a couple of ballots as I left." As for the final election results, Salovesh had difficulty understanding how they were reached. He was in contact throughout the day with individuals from the PRI who were keeping track, by means of two-way radio, of the votes in nearby towns.

"In the largest town in the municipio, the official party lost heavily, according to the reports. In several other towns, the PRI received less than 10 per cent of the vote," he said. "At the end of the day, the official report for the municipio gave a strong majority to the official party [PRI]."

"From my knowledge of the

demographics involved, I can say that there just weren't that many places to counteract the vote of the largest town and several other towns," Salovesh continued. Another point which puzzled him was that in some voting districts, there were more votes cast for the official candidate for governor than there were ballots in the voting stations. "You can actually see that in the official reports," he said.

Together with some journalists, Alianza Civica, an organization which co-ordinated much of the poll-watching during the election, began checking the official public reports, and found dozens of such cases. The Mexican government, however, has been downplaying reports of widespread fraud and electoral violations. According to Antonio Ocaranza of the Mexican Embassy's Press Department, the electoral process was "within the acceptable parameters for an

election of this magnitude." He added that any irregularities reported to the authorities are being analyzed.

"Many of these irregularities were due more to unconscious actions by some of the officials at the polls, but did not constitute any sort of pattern that could have affected the result," he claimed.

The overall point of view was that this was an election that was transparently clean. Salovesh noted that it is difficult to make blanket statements as to whether or not massive fraud was involved in the election. However, "the possibility of things happening is clear. If you were to ask me who won the election, PRI won the election."

"If you were to ask me who's going to be the next president, it's Ernesto Zedillo, the candidate for PRI. But if you were to ask me who got the most votes in the voting places, I haven't the foggiest idea. And no one else does either," Ocaranza said.



## COMMENT

## How should we reform young offender laws?

A dramatic increase in the number of violent crimes committed by young people has prompted many to call for reforms to the Young Offenders Act. The Canadian Press reported on a rally on Sunday in Vancouver to demand such changes. According to the story, "local mayors, provincial and federal politicians, and police spoke in support of changes aimed at seeing violent teens take responsibility for their actions."

Clearly it has become politically fashionable to call for harsher handling of young offenders. Politicians believe taking a stand in favour of such reforms will make them seem tough on crime and will, therefore, win them votes.

This is not the only reason politicians flock to such a stand. The other reason is that it's the easy way out. It's easier to say we should lock young offenders up for longer periods of time. It's easier to try and delude people into thinking that this action will make the streets safer, and will deter other youths from committing crimes. It's hard to admit that crimes by young people will only decline when underlying social issues are addressed.

Given the conditions today in poor urban neighbourhoods, the threat of a long prison term is not much of a deterrent. Besides, studies show that most people who commit crimes do not think about the possible consequences should they be caught, as they do not believe they will actually be caught.

Unless and until we deal with the deteriorating social and educational situation in our cities, no amount of reform to the Young Offenders act will make the streets safer, nor deter young people from committing crimes. We need to address the fact that drop-out rates are skyrocketing, and the quality of the education which those who stay in school receive is falling. Without an education and prospects for a better future, many young people turn to crime.

The Canadian Press coverage of this rally in Vancouver wrote about "changes aimed at seeing violent teens take responsibility for their actions." This comment implied that current youth laws allow young offenders to get off without "taking responsibility for their actions."

Let us not forget that the purpose of giving lesser sentences to young offenders is that we believe there is some hope of reforming them so that they can become law-abiding members of society. Making them take "responsibility for their actions" (read: keep them in jail longer) would do nothing to accomplish this aim.

What it would do is further harden these young people and further isolate them from the rest of society. By the time they are released from jail, many of these young people may be "career criminals". Not only would their lives be ruined, but society would have to deal with the continuing crimes they commit and the ongoing cost of locking them up again.

Our current system does not do a good job of reforming young offenders, but toughening the Young Offenders Act would only make the problem worse. We need to develop effective education and rehabilitation programs so that these young people will not continue to be a burden on society. We need to show young offenders that there is an alternative to crime. Reforms are needed in the way we treat young offenders, but they are not the changes these protesters and politicians in Vancouver are calling for.

Aubrey Cohen

*The Daily is currently looking for two news editors. To be eligible to run you must be a McGill student and a voting Daily staff member and have at least one night's worth of Daily production night experience. If you're interested come by Union B-03 and talk to Mel, Cherie or Klara.*



HYDE PARK

## Standing up to the World Bank

*An opinion submitted by the Student Christian Movement*

Tomorrow, a representative of the World Bank is coming to McGill to recruit students for this organization. By allowing this recruitment to occur, McGill implicitly accepts responsibility for World Bank activities in the Third World. McGill students should ask themselves if this is a responsibility they want to embrace.

According to their own recruitment information, the World Bank is an entity whose purpose is to "...raise the standards of living in developing countries by channeling financial resources from developed countries," in other words, by loaning the Third World money from First World financial institutions. Examination of the facts, though, shows that in practice the Bank has done the opposite — it has deliberately impoverished the Third World for First World benefit. Consider the facts:

- Since 1982, overall Third World debt has increased by 61 per cent. In sub-Saharan Africa, it has increased by 113 per cent — its debt has actually doubled.

- Expressed in US dollars, the Third World owes the First World \$600 billion more than it did in 1982.

- This debt was incurred by nations undergoing World Bank programs designed to eliminate their debt.

How did this happen? Simply put, like this: with the onset of the 1982 worldwide recession, many Third World nations were not able to pay the interest charges on their debt to the World Bank. The World Bank's response to this situation was to offer more loans to these governments, on condition that they accept a Bank-designed Structural Adjustment Program (SAP). Any government that refused to accept an SAP would be blacklisted in international financial circles, and become unable to function. Not surprisingly, most adopted an SAP.

The purpose of an SAP is to transform an economy into a money-making machine whose profits are spent on paying off the nation's debt. Typically, SAPs call for a complete stop to social spending (i.e. welfare, unemployment insurance), privatization of all state business, deregulation of the economy, devaluation of local currency to improve export business and opening complete access for foreign (usually US) multinationals to local mar-

kets. Moreover, governments are pressured to exploit without limit their natural resources, leading to deforestation, slash-and-burn agriculture and ore-refining without respect for the environment.

In theory, these methods earn money for governments that submit to them. In practice, they do not do so: massive production of one commodity typically saturates the world market, resulting in falling prices for that commodity. Third World nations are left without gain — all they receive is increased debt and massive damage to their environment, their working classes, and their interests. First World nations like Canada make fortunes from Third World interest payments on the ever-increasing debt: we profit from their misery.

We members of the Student Christian Movement condemn the World Bank for their greed-based policies of environmental and human degradation. We condemn McGill for allowing this organization to recruit on campus. We call on McGill students to join in protesting this state of affairs at the protest rally at 9h this Thursday, at the Bronfman Building.

The Daily welcomes all letters under 300 words. Add your name, program, year and phone number. Anonymity can be provided; talk to an editor beforehand. We print all letters provided they are not racist, sexist, homophobic or slanderous.

Opinions can be expressed in the form of a Hyde Park, no more than 500 words.

**SINCE 1911**  
**Vol. 84 No. 10**

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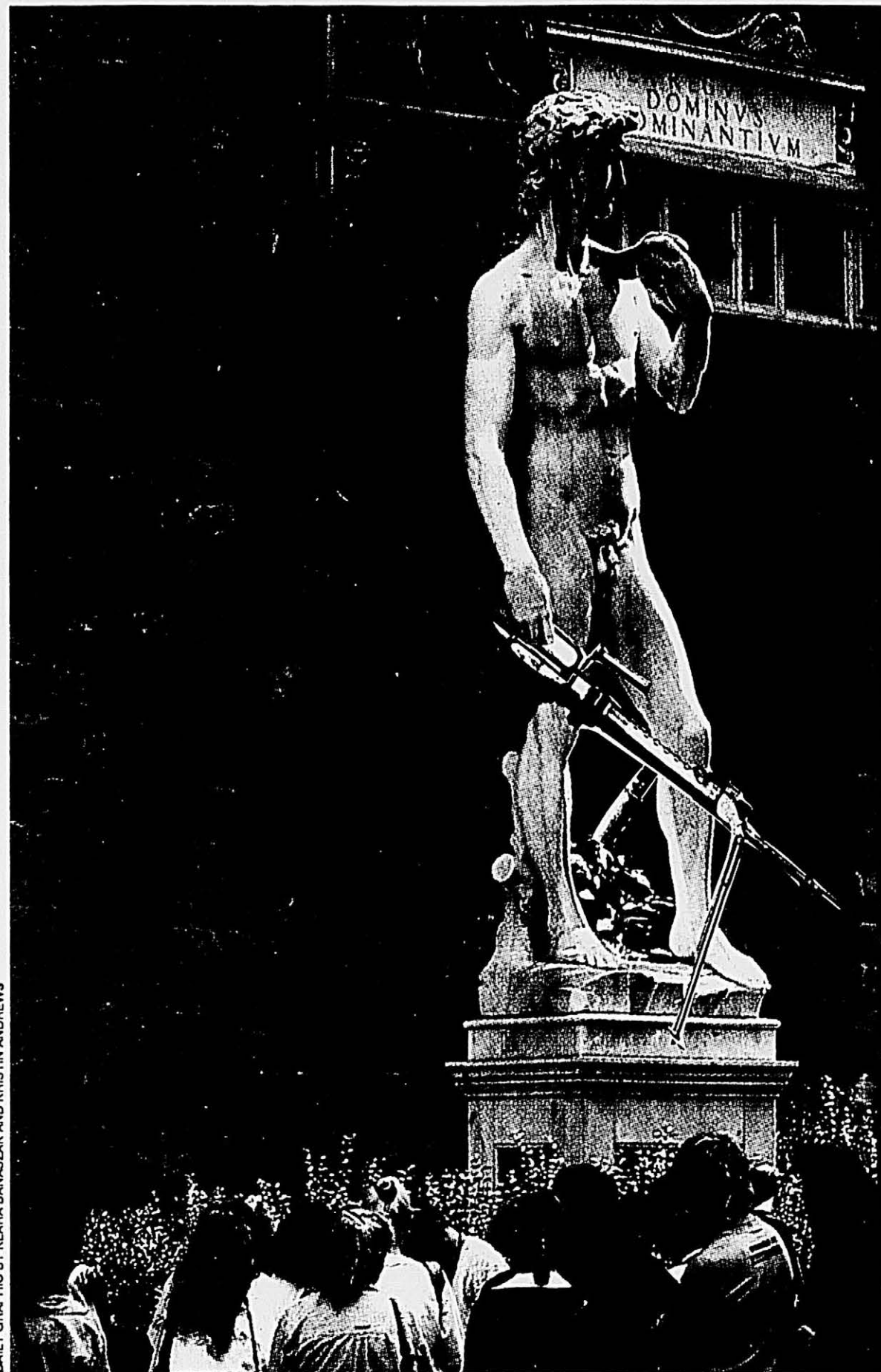
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**THE MCGILL DAILY**





DAILY GRAPHIC BY KLARA BANASZAK AND KRISTIN ANDREWS

## Liberals reform Welfare

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She added that people who are not on welfare need to better inform themselves about the social services system.

"People have a surface impression, but if they dig deeper, they'll find that this is not such a great deal after all," she said.

### New proposal is the final straw

The new Parti Québécois government has given assurances that no further cuts will be made to welfare. But, for welfare rights organizations and recipients alike, the fi-

nal straw is the anticipated Axworthy reform, to be announced this Monday. Led by Liberal minister Lloyd Axworthy, the latest reform is rumoured to contain even more cuts in welfare.

"They are floating around the idea of revamping the whole system and having individual citizens contribute so that there would be a kind of 'salary insurance' as opposed to having UI," said McCaughey. "That's a complete change in policy. It's basically saying 'put away your own money in case you need it some day'."

No one in the provincial Minis-

try of Social Services could be reached for comment.

Groups are holding information meetings and are planning to rally support to lobby local politicians, and convince them not to support the changes.

Several welfare rights groups are organizing a demonstration on Tuesday morning to voice their grievances. The demonstration will leave Multicafe or Project Genesis at 9h30 and make its way to the office of Finance Minister Paul Martin. To get involved in the protests or to find out more, call Project Genesis at 738-2036.

Are you interested in writing about Municipal elections, or other Montréal news issues? The Daily is looking for news writers who are interested in writing about the city. Those interested should come to the Daily office (Union B-03) and talk to Aubrey or Mel.

## COMMENT

### Celebrating 50 years of destruction

The tradition of celebrating every damn event that took place in the past century has gone too far.

That 50th anniversary celebrations were taking place for the Second World War was no secret. However, the decision to display the *Enola Gay*, the plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington is probably the most bizarre directive to emerge from the American propaganda machine in a long time.

The *Enola Gay* on exhibition is a simple reminder that "might makes right". The atomic bombs dropped on Japan were simply for the purpose of annihilating civilians. One hundred twenty thousand people were killed in two nights. Not bad for an experiment, but heck, the United States military machine had done better.

From January through the next six months, the US Air Force conducted fire-bombing operations against major Japanese cities, which resulted in the death of half a million civilians. On the night of March 11, two hundred thousand civilians were killed in Tokyo alone, which is to this day the greatest number of people annihilated in such a short time frame.

According to General Lemay, the chief of the Air Force in the Pacific, the fire bombing campaigns were a "success". Add up all the Japanese civilians *deliberately* killed, and we come to the fantastic figure of about a million, nearly *two percent of the total war casualties*.

Unfortunately, five decades later people don't tend to see things the way they actually were. The lame excuse that the atomic bombs shortened the war is still made and supported by the vast majority in academic circles.

The fact of the matter is, the bombs were simply a demonstration of the military capacity of the United States. And whereas the public could only talk about it once, now the plane that dropped the bomb is standing there in a museum. It's something we can show our children and say, "Look! That's the plane that dropped the bomb! Isn't it nice?"

Those who want to break out the brass and beat on the drums and enjoy shivers running up their spines in memory of the war may do so. It seems odd that people are so keen on celebrating, considering that we haven't learned a single thing since 1939 and have on the contrary used every opportunity to royally screw up as best as we could. Some examples of this are Panama, the Persian Gulf and Somalia, just to name a few. It's also odd how and why the people from the colonies like India who were literally used like cannon fodder by the British in the Far East are left out of any discourse.

Being a nationalist is fine and dandy, but hiding behind the star spangled skirt and accepting everything the propaganda machine throws at us could be a dangerous thing. And fifty years later it is time that we start questioning things like the *Enola Gay*, and whether there's any justification behind it.

And there's hardly ever any justification behind murder.

Hasan Karrar

## LETTERS

### Conspiracy on Parc

Dear Daily,

I have a problem that I am hoping you can help me solve. It seems that two weeks ago when I put my green recycling box out onto Avenue du Parc, not only did they take my post consumer waste, but they (someone) also took my green recycling box. The following week my recyclables went into a yellow milk crate along side my neighbours' green recycling bin. They emptied her bin but not mine, why? The plastic, glass, and tin were quite visible and the newspapers were neatly stacked. What gives?! I pondered the situation over lunch and when I returned the trash was still there, but my yellow milk crate was gone. Holy Cow! Daily, oh Daily, please help me out.

Jeff Violi U2, Urban Systems

Ed. note. I live on Parc, and dog-darn it, it happens to me too!

### Student in a pickle

To the good people at the Daily,

I would like to introduce myself as the world's greatest Bick's Pickle fan. Everytime I crunch into one of those tempting delights I squirm with excitement. I believe there can be no better compliment to my lunch time meal than Bick's delicious products.

However, I do have one, small complaint. It seems that they cram just too many of those precious gems into every jar. This cramming causes a mashing of the top few pickles, and while still yummy, they leave me feeling somewhat less than satisfied. I realize they ship their produce by volume but you would think an enlargement of the container would be possible. An investigation into this matter should be initiated by Multi-foods Inc., the parent division of Bick's Pickles.

Sincerely yours,  
Jeff Violi  
U2 Urban Systems



# Live with Stereolab

BY STEVE SHAPERO

Stereolab played at Woodstock on September 14th to a pretty packed house. The crowd was a mix of hiply-inclined fans and college kids going to the show just to be somewhere.

The set encompassed varying material, starting with "Changez" (from their first CD), "Switched On," and a mix of songs spanning all of their releases, which are fairly numerous for a relatively new band. Their albums include "Switched On," composed mostly of previously released Duophonic 45's, "Peng!", only available as an import from the UK, "Transient Random Noise Bursts," their first major label release, and their new album, "Mars Audiac Quintet." There have also been several UK-only EPs.

Stereolab's sound is guided primarily by Tim Gane's carefully controlled guitar, which mixes a warm tone with smooth undulating rhythms. Perhaps a more noticeable element is the use of the analogue keyboards (a Farfisa and a Moog) as sound layers, somewhat like hollow bricks on top of Gane's guitar. This interview was conducted with Tim immediately after the set.

## Daily: Why do you think people want to interview rock bands?

Tim: Why do they want to interview rock bands? I don't know. I don't think most rock bands are any more interesting or any more intelligent than anybody else. I suppose they play music in the public eye. I don't read articles about rock bands. I'm not really interested in bands.

## Do you listen to any other bands?

Yeah. I love music, I listen all the time. I like Pavement, Sebadoh, Drag City stuff, Cram, King Kong.

## Do any of those influence your song writing?

A little bit, maybe. I just like them because they are themselves. They're unique bands for themselves, and I think it should be that way. There shouldn't be any genre or category. You should be yourself; your own music, nobody else should sound like you. Those bands are like that for me. They write great songs by doing it their own way.

## Do you think you sound like anyone else?

We sound a bit like a band called Snapper. It's up to people to decide if we sound like anyone. I think it's difficult to do music that doesn't sound like anyone. I think that would be an impossible aim. There's loads of brilliant bands. The Beach Boys are one of my favorite bands. I don't mind if we sound like them sometimes, but I don't think we do.

## How do you feel about the new album?

It's got one part of what we do. I'm not happy

with everything on it. I think we could have done some songs better, and we play them better now, live. But then again, I think it's important not to worry about that. You should just get on with it and do things and not think about it. At least there's an opportunity to hear something by us if they want to.

## Do you take what you do seriously?

To a level... I don't think we're a joke band. I don't take it overly seriously. Live, we just play and if people take it too seriously it's up to them. Well, what did you think about tonight? I don't really get any impression of what anyone thinks here.

## Well, about tonight...

Well, it was chaotic, but I think that if people don't put anything into it, then I don't really see what we can do. If people just sit there and want to be blown away by music, then that's the wrong attitude. You got to be part of it. If you're not part of it, then our music doesn't work. It only works in an atmosphere, in an environment where people are willing to not accept normal procedure in music live. Like messianists stalking songs. Just overloading with noise, that's what our music is about. If people are not into that, that's too bad.

## Were audiences better at home?

It's not about audiences. It just seemed that no one had any opinion, good or bad. We played, some people liked it, some people didn't. I mean, we were playing and it seemed slightly off. I actually enjoyed today, even though it was a bit chaotic. We weren't quite playing in time and the songs started going a bit haywire. But then again, I like that when I see that in bands. If people don't like that, well, too bad. I think that you need a good atmosphere, where people are open-minded. The process of making music live is very haphazard. Things go wrong. Any time you play music that isn't completely written you need to have parts that don't work, as well as parts that work better than you would have imagined.

## It sounds like you feel you didn't get a good reaction.

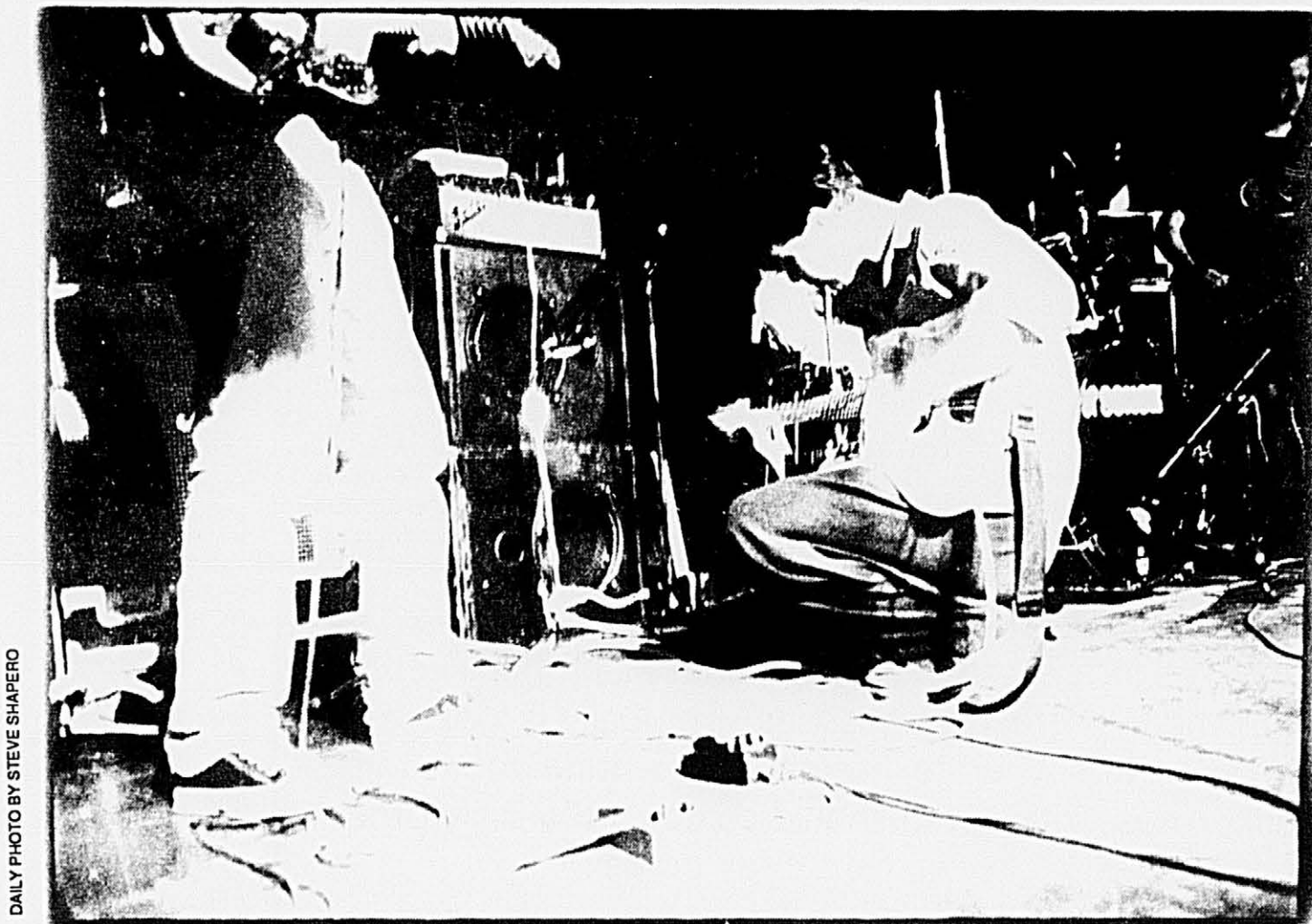
No, no, no. We've played where we've had no reaction, like when we played at Lollapaloo-

**THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY GENRE OR CATEGORY. YOU SHOULD BE YOURSELF; YOUR OWN MUSIC, NOBODY ELSE SHOULD SOUND LIKE YOU.**

za, there was no reaction. It's not bad, it's just that I felt like people were analyzing us a bit today. It's not that there was no reaction, it's just that people were very analytical, and I don't think that's the right attitude to have. The reaction was fine, I'm not worried about that. I just wondered what people thought of us, because I just had no idea what people thought, good or bad.

## Crowds here are very passive?

It's very odd that, because I expect—well, I don't expect anything—but I assume that, well, it was neither anything nor nothing. We were really self-generating. Usually it's like somewhat reciprocal, good or bad. If people don't like it, they show that they don't like it. Or they show that they like it. But there's some kind of empathy. We were really pushed to get that kind of level, whereas usually it's a bit easier to get. That's fine, maybe it's good that it was that way. Maybe people just wanted to come see what we were doing, kind of work out what we were doing, and that's fine.



DAILY PHOTO BY STEVE SHAPERO



# events

- The Association for Baha'i Studies at McGill invites you to a talk by Dr. Bill Hatcher (professor of math at Laval University) tomorrow at 18h30 at Wilson Hall (corner University and Milton). All are welcome. Refreshments will be served.
- The International Socialists will have a public meeting on the subject of "Fighting poverty not the poor" on Sept. 28, 15h30, Rm H-771, Hall Bdg, 1455 de Maisonneuve W. (Guy Metro).
- The McGill Centre for Developing Area Studies will host a seminar called "Threat to a Secular India," given by Dr. Ashok Mitra, member of parliament and former minister of finance, West Bengal. Sept. 29, 15h30, 3715 Peel, room 100. For more information, call 398-3507.
- The Women's "Y" will begin training volunteers interested in literacy tutoring beginning Sept. 26. Call 866-9941 ext. 278.
- The Women's "Y" is now taking registrations for personal development courses beginning in October. The Centre offers Assertiveness Training, Financial Fitness, Financial Fitness for the Self-employed, Public Speaking, Networking Strategies and Making the Media Work for You. Course fees start at \$100 and are tax deductible. Call 866-9941 ext. 502.
- The YWCA continues to collect money and first-aid supplies (new blankets, sterilized gauze and bandages of all sizes, hand soap) to assist refugee women and their families at the Rwanda-Uganda borders. Donations will be accepted until Oct. 14. Collection baskets are in the YWCA's main lobby. Call 866-9941 ext. 293.
- Check out Orientation and Services for Employment (OSE) a new program offered by the Women's "Y". An information session will be held in English on

Oct. 28, 9h30. Services are free for unemployment insurance beneficiaries. To Reserve a place, call 866-9941 ext. 416.

• Women Survivors of Domestic Violence is a facilitated support group currently being formed. Meetings are informal, confidential and free of cost. The place of the meeting is safe and secure. Meeting time is open to evening or daytime depending on the response. Call Katrina Grant at The McGill Domestic Violence Clinic, 398-7070.

• AMI-Québec will offer the following new education programs. An 8-week program on depression/manic depression starts on Wednesday, Oct. 5. Open to people with disorders as well as family and friends. A 6-week program on obsessive compulsive disorder will start Tuesday, Oct. 11. A 6-week program for family members with a relative diagnosed with schizophrenia starts Thursday, Oct. 20. All programs are free but require registration. Call 486-1448.

• A general meeting of NDP McGill will be held Wednesday, Sept. 28, 17h at Union 302.

• The McGill Centralde Campaign "Loonie Line" invites you to help pave the road with loonies from the Roddick Gates to the Arts Building. Funds raised go to Centraide of Greater Montreal, which funds 215 agencies helping needy people in the Montreal community. The event will take place on Thursday, Oct. 6, 8h-17h. For more information, call Jackie Lapointe or Lexy Relph, 398-4396.

• The McGill Bridge Club is holding a meeting on Thursday, Sept. 29 at 18h in the Union cafeteria. All welcome. Call Shezad, 285-5666.

• The Latin American Awareness Group will meet Tuesday, Oct. 4 in Shatner B10. Everyone is welcome.



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**DON'T MISS THE FINAL 3 DAILY DAYS**  
Several of our ever popular Daily Days have been Shuffled to other days

The news writing seminar with *Daily* editors Cherie Payne, Dave Austin and Aubrey Cohen and staffer Pat Harewood will take place as planned on Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 14h30 in Union B-03.

Covering the environment and conducting effective meetings for democratic organizations (like the *Daily*) with MacDonald Campus' Dr. Stuart Hill will now be held on Monday, October 3, 19h30.

A user's guide to the resources of the student press with former *Daily* editor Dave Ley and Canadian University Press regional co-ordinator Debbie Hum will now be held on Friday, October 7 at 13h00 in Union B-03 (the *Daily's* lovely bunker).



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## 13 - LESSONS/COURSES

**Dance classes** - Jazz or tap, beginner and intermediate with Elissa Bernstein. Five minutes from campus. Register now - 495-3057.

**Come and Practice** your French with francophones. Club Half and Half. Tel.: 465-9128.

**Singing Lessons:** Classical technique frees your natural voice. Experienced teacher, reasonable rates. All musical styles. 271-8322.

## 14 - NOTICES

**L.B.G.M. Events:** Sept. 30 Sky Event. Oct. 21 Sky Event. Oct. 29 Faces Dance Party.

**St. Martha's in the Basement:** an ecumenical, eucharistic service of peace and dialogue, Sundays 10:30am beginning Sept. 11. Pot-luck lunch follows. 398-4104

**McGill Nightline** is an information listening and referral service. Open 9pm-3am until mid Oct. and 6pm-3am the rest of the year. Try it out!!! 398-6246.

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- **When:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 to 5:30 P.M. October 11 to November 3, 16 hours in total

- **Where:** Concordia University Centre for Continuing Education 1822 de Maisonneuve Boulevard West

- **Cost:** \$160 (includes all taxes)

For further information or registration, please call 848-3604 or 848-3600.



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